

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

July 16, 2003

The Honorable Tommy G. Thompson
Secretary of Health and Human Services
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Secretary Thompson:

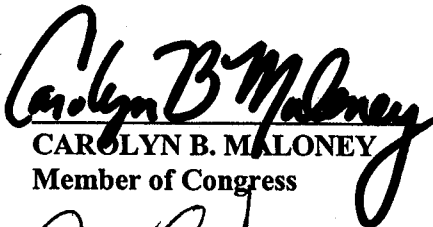
We write to express our great concern that federal bioterrorism preparedness and response funds are not being allocated to states and communities based on a threat analysis. The reality is that certain cities are at extremely high risk for future biological, chemical and radiological terrorist attacks.

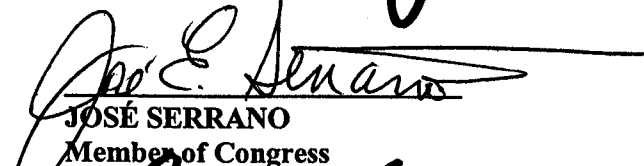
The current per capita distribution does not appear to relate to the goal of getting the best possible preparedness network established as quickly as possible. Thus, we strongly encourage a reassessment of how this program is implemented. Whether the risk analysis would be a variation on that engaged in by the Department of Homeland Security to announce their high risk funding or some similar analysis is for you to determine. We do know that the current distribution of the money is resulting in a distribution based on \$5 million minimum per state and then a per capita distribution and is not based on a careful analysis that will get us the maximum and most efficient expenditure of these dollars.

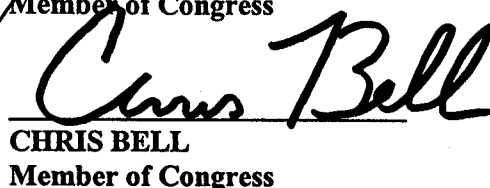
To provide an example of the results of this approach, New York City will receive 2.5% of the federal bioterrorism funds allocated by the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention and the Health Research and Services Administration in fiscal year 2003. This is not even New York City's 2.85% per capita share, and is clearly not related to the actual threat of an act of bioterrorism. The same could be said of other high threat cities.

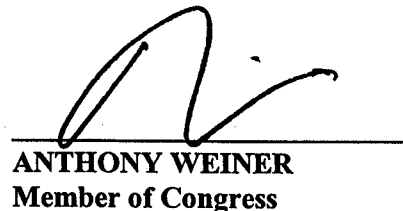
We look forward to hearing from you on this critically important so that we may work together toward a safer America.

Sincerely,

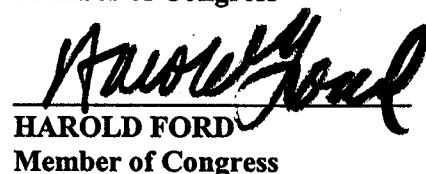

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Member of Congress

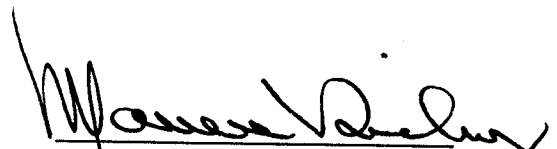

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Member of Congress

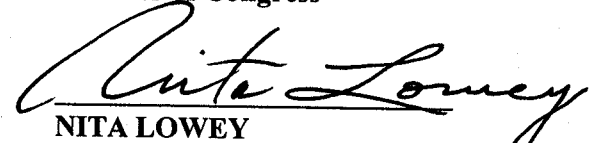

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HAROLD FORD
Member of Congress

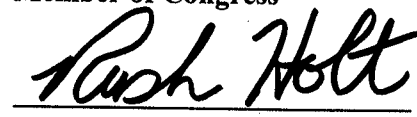

JERROLD NADLER
Member of Congress

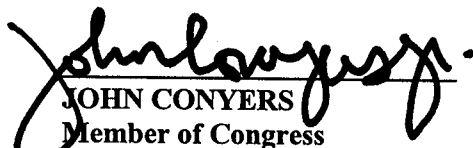

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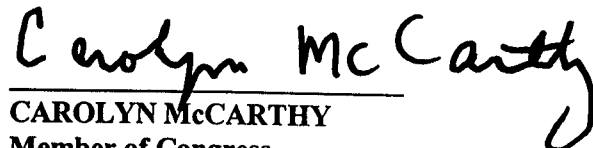

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